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How to find your legislators:

Go to votesmart.org and type your zip+4 zip code in the search box. To find your zip+4 code, go to <https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction!input.action>

How to contact your legislators after Jan. 7, 2013:

Phone 406-444-4800 to leave your legislator a message or find individual contact info at www.leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/63rd/roster.asp?HouseID=0&SessionID=107

Arts council budget (from page 1)

- **Helps schools meet state’s Arts Content Standards**, which are stated as: “The arts enable students to make decisions and seek multiple solutions. They improve perception, reflection, and creative thought. They advance higher-order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The arts provide powerful tools for understanding human experiences and cultures – past, present and future. Arts education engages students in a creative process that helps them to develop self-motivation, discipline, cooperation and self-esteem necessary for success in life.”

Both Public Value Partnerships and arts education grant programs are core to the agency’s mission, have been around for decades, are successful and have a proven track record of significant return on investment to local economies, community vitality and education.

2. \$300,000 Montana Artrepreneurship Program (MAP) and local arts Workforce Development programs

This is a one-time-only request to integrate the highly successful MAP program into the agency’s state funding. These programs have been test-launched over the past four years with funding from private foundations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Their funding is not renewable.

- **MAC’s Montana Artrepreneurship Program (MAP)** is a marketing/business

skills training program for individual artists who live far away from traditional markets.

- **One out of every 60 people in Montana’s labor market is a working artist**, according to new data from the Montana Department of Labor. (This report is highlighted in this issue of “State of the Arts.”)
- **Marketing and business skills development** are top needs cited by artists in MAC’s 2012 Artist Survey.
- **Artists have an economic impact in Montana of \$250 million a year.** Three-quarters of total sales dollars come from out-of-state buyers.
- **MAP has a proven track record of enormous success**, strong return on investment and over 200 Montanans trained to date in more than a dozen rural communities.
- **Working artists fit the small business culture of Montana.** In total, 61% of Montana’s businesses employ between one and four employees, and are the same businesses the program’s graduates use as vendors in their local community and across the state.
- **The National Governor’s Association (NGA) recently cited MAP as a model economic development program** in its “New Engines of Growth: Five Roles for Arts, Culture and Design” publication. This report positions the arts as a “compelling part of states’ economic solutions...recognizing artists, designers as entrepreneurs and innovators...Armed with start-up funding and training (resources states regularly provide to small businesses in other sectors), artists can add greater value to the economy.”

The full report is available at <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1204NEWENGINESOFGROWTH.PDF>

At press time, plans are still in development for how this initiative will be presented in the Governor’s Budget.

Pick up your phone, your pen or your PDA now!

These studies add more compelling reasons as to why a vital artistic community is so essential to our state.

There is much at stake this legislative session when it comes to the arts council’s funding. Each dime of state arts funding is like a golden coin on the local level because of how hard it works. The arts council’s budget, comparatively, as a share of the total state general fund budget (at .03%), amounts to what we have heard defined as “eraser dust.”

The state is in a very positive financial situation. Yet, this doesn’t mean it’s going to be easy to get this funding. There are going to be many requests for money. You will hear, “We have to fund the pension fund shortage!” “What about kids who need glasses?” “It’s all about medication, education and incarceration!”

No one doubts that these are important and deserve adequate funding. But this does not have to be an “either/or” situation. The state can do both. The amount of money we’re talking about to fund the arts is a drop in the bucket. The arts help solve Montana’s problems. The arts are all about education, jobs and the economy.

Montanans need to let their legislators know what they believe should be a priority. There’s money there. So it’s not really about money. The bottom line is what should be a priority for funding. Funding the arts makes business and education sense for Montana because of the high return on investment it provides.

It will be so very important for all readers of this paper to share your thoughts about the public value of the state funding the arts, especially the two proposals outlined at the outset of this article. Now is a great time to do so – before the legislative session begins and legislators’ schedules are jam-packed. Here’s how to do it.

Contacting legislators (Information provided by the Legislative Services Division)

Online or by phone

You may use the phone numbers and e-mail addresses provided with the legislative roster at www.leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/63rd/roster.asp?HouseID=0&SessionID=107

- Beginning Jan. 7, you can leave a message for your legislator at 406-444-4800.

By mail

A well-written letter is one of the best ways to let your legislator know your thoughts and opinions about a particular issue. Here are some tips for getting your message across effectively:

- **Be brief.** Legislators have many demands on their time. They appreciate letters that are short and to the point.
- **Put the message in your own words.** Form letters and petitions don’t have the same impact as personal, informed opinions.
- **Address your letter to a specific legislator or legislators.** Depending on your message, you may want to write to the sponsor of a bill, certain members of a committee, or your own legislators. Don’t address your letter to the entire Legislature.
- **Identify bills** by their number, title and sponsor.

- **Explain your position** on the bill and ask for the legislator’s support or opposition.

- **Give any sources of information** that you use to make your point. **Include your name, address and a little about who you are** (for example, where you work or what school you attend).

Address letters to:

Senator XXXX, Montana Senate, PO Box 200500, Helena, MT 59620-0500; or Rep. XXXX, Montana House of Representatives, PO Box 200400, Helena, MT 59620-0400

By Fax after Jan. 7:

- **House 406-444-4825**
- **Senate 406-444-4875**

Public Value Partnerships, FY 2011-2014

Alberta Bair Theater, Billings
Alpine Theatre Project, Whitefish
Archie Bray Foundation, Helena
Art Mobile of Montana, Statewide
Big Sky Film Institute, Missoula
Bigfork Playhouse Children’s Theatre, Bigfork
Billings Symphony Society, Billings
Bozeman Symphony Society, Bozeman
Butte Symphony Assoc., Butte
Carbon County Arts Guild and Depot Gallery, Red Lodge
Clay Studio of Missoula, Missoula
CoMotion Dance Project, Missoula
Custer Co. Art & Heritage Center, Miles City
Emerson Cultural Center, Bozeman
Equinox Theater Company, Bozeman
Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Fort Peck
Glacier Symphony & Chorale, Kalispell
Grandstreet Theatre, Helena
Great Falls Symphony, Great Falls
Hamilton Players, Inc., Hamilton
Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center, Helena
Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell
Holter Museum of Art, Helena
Intermountain Opera Assoc., Bozeman
Livingston Center for Art & Culture Inc., Livingston
MAPS Media Institute, Darby
MCT Inc., Statewide
Missoula Art Museum, Missoula
Missoula Cultural Council, Missoula
Missoula Writing Collaborative, Missoula
Montana Ballet Company, Bozeman
Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Missoula
Montana Repertory Theatre, Statewide
North Valley Music School, Whitefish
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls
Shakespeare in the Parks, Statewide
Southwest Montana Arts Council, Dillon
Stumptown Art Studio, Whitefish
Sunburst Community Foundation, Eureka
Venture Theatre, Billings
VSA Arts of Montana, Statewide
Whitefish Theatre Company, Whitefish
Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings
Montana Art Gallery Director’s Assoc., Statewide
Montana Arts, Statewide
Montana Assoc. of Symphony Orchestras, Statewide
Montana Dance Arts Association, Statewide
Montana Performing Arts Consortium, Statewide

STATE OF THE ARTS

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State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

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